



City of Gaithersburg Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Winter Lights Festival Extends Weekend Hours, Provides Pro Tips for Best Visit

Gaithersburg, MD (December 8, 2020) The 25th annual Winter Lights Festival is proving to be tremendously popular this year. To accommodate as many patrons as possible and to help reduce wait times, the City of Gaithersburg is making some program modifications. Effective immediately, **all tickets must be purchased online in advance**. Purchase tickets [here](#). Only advance ticket holders will be admitted; tickets will not be sold at the gate. The program will also have **extended hours on weekends**, now open until 10 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Please review the following tips on how to best enjoy this year's Festival.

EXPECT DELAYS; traffic is very heavy on the weekends. Attend on the weekdays for shorter wait times. Note that weekend tickets are valid any day.

Before you leave your home:

- Check traffic to estimate your wait time. WTOP provides traffic updates and WAZE and Apple Maps provide estimated travel times.
- Make sure you have plenty of fuel in your gas tank.
- Bring a car phone charger, especially for mobile ticketholders.
- Use the restroom before leaving home; port-a-johns are located just beyond the park entrance and in the admissions booth loop.
- Print your tickets ahead of time; printed tickets scan the fastest.
- Bring snacks and drinks, or grab dinner on the way to enjoy in your vehicle.

During your trip to the Festival:

- Arrive early and as close to 5:30 p.m. as possible.
- Follow all traffic laws; do not block intersections.
- Have your tickets ready as soon as you enter the park.

During your visit:

- Vehicle drivers are required to wear a mask at the admission booth and should have it on before reaching the booth.
- For your own safety and to keep traffic moving, do NOT exit your vehicle and do NOT stop along the route.
- Tune in to 97.1 WASH FM for holiday music.

- Enjoy! This year has been a trying time for us all; relax and share this special holiday memory with your loved ones. Happy Holidays!

The City of Gaithersburg [Winter Lights Festival](#), which has always been the perfect socially distancing holiday event, welcomes visitors back for its 25th spectacular season. The wondrous display of lights at Seneca Creek State Park is open nightly through December 31 (closed December 25), Monday through Thursday from 6 to 9 p.m., and Friday through Sunday from 6 to 10 p.m. The park is located at 11950 Clopper Road, just a few miles west of the intersection with I-270. Access is now even more convenient with the opening of the new Watkins Mill Interchange on I-270.

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